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American Society of Civil Engineers Awards NJMC Executive Director for Public Service

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The North Jersey Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers today presented New Jersey Meadowlands Commission Executive Director Robert Ceberio with the 2007 Service to the People Award.

The award is presented annually to an elected or appointed government official who has contributed meritorious public service to the civil engineering profession. Ceberio was nominated for leading the NJMC in a number of initiatives, including the establishment of a Regional Renewable Energy District seeking 20 MW of solar and other renewable energy technologies and progressive measures in energy efficiency.

Ceberio was acknowledged for his role in the development of the first new Master Plan for the Meadowlands District in 30 years, for substantive changes to NJMC land use regulations including the incorporation of green building incentives, and for the acquisition of more than 2,000 acres of wetlands and open space for permanent preservation.

Also noted was Ceberio's assistance to the NJMC Board of Commissioners in the creation of the Municipal Assistance Program (MAP) to provide tax relief to the 14 Meadowlands District municipalities. Since 2002, the NJMC has allocated \$10 million in MAP grants for flood control, the purchase of public works and regional shared services equipment, improvements to passive and active recreational facilities, police, fire and emergency response technology, the GIS digital mapping system for first responders, and an annual Community Tree Planting Program to enhance green infrastructure.

Ceberio has been with the NJMC since 1981, serving as Acting Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Director of Planning and Management, Director of Administration and Acting Chief Fiscal Officer. In addition to his work at the NJMC, he has served as an adjunct faculty member at Rutgers University and Farleigh Dickinson University and is a member of the Wayne Board of Education.

The North Jersey Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is comprised of over 1,700 Civil Engineers residing or employed in the counties of Bergen, Hudson, Passaic, Morris, Essex and Union. Founded in 1852, the ASCE represents more than 139,000 members of the civil engineering profession worldwide and is America's oldest national engineering society. The vision of the ASCE is to position engineers as global leaders building a better quality of life, through leadership, advances in technology, and continued education.

The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is the zoning and regulatory agency for the 32-square-area along the Hackensack River which covers 14 municipalities in Bergen and Hudson Counties. Created by an act of State Legislature in 1969, the NJMC is charged with the mandates of environmental protection, economic development and solid waste management. The towns in the Meadowlands District are Carlstadt, East Rutherford, Little Ferry, Lyndhurst, Moonachie, North Arlington, Ridgefield, Rutherford, South Hackensack, Teterboro, Jersey City, Kearny, North Bergen and Secaucus. For more information, visit the Web site <http://www.meadowlands.state.nj.us/>.

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